

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07700 171810Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
AID-05 CEA-01 EA-10 FRB-03 IO-13 NEA-10 OPIC-03
TRSE-00 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 /104 W
-----065126 180551Z /10

R 171803Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2088
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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ALSO FOR USEEC AND OECD

E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, SP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ICFTU SEC GEN OTTO KERSTEN

REF: MADRID 858

1. OTTO KERSTEN, SEC GEN OF THE ICFTU, ARRIVED IN
SPAIN OCTOBER 13. AFTER A BRIEF ROUND OF MEETINGS WITH
LEADERS OF THE BASQUE STV TRADE UNION IN BILBAO, HE
PROCEEDED TO MADRID OCTOBER 15 FOR MEETINGS WITH THE
SOCIALIST UGT (THE ICFTU'S PRINCIPAL SPANISH AFFILIATE)
AND TO SIT IN ON THE MEETING HERE OF THE POLITICAL
BUREAU OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SEPTTEL). IN A
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BILBAO INTERVIEW WITH INDEPENDENT LIBERAL-LEFT MADRID
DAILY "EL PAIS", HE COMMENTED ON THE SPANISH LABOR SCENE
AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE ICFTU HAS FOUGHT FOR LIBERTY IN SPAIN. NOW IT
APPEARS THE SPANISH TRADI UNIONS ARE READY TO CONFRONT
THE "ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITY" OF REPRESENTING THE WORKERS.

-- THE SPANISH GOVT SHOULD STRENGTH THE UNIONS AND THEN LEAVE THEM ALONE TO ELABORATE A TRUE UNION POLICY. GOVT POLICY UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN "ILL-OMENED". THERE IS NO EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE TRADE UNIONS ARE "STILL NOT FUNCTIONING WITH FULL POWERS".

-- (WHEN ASKED HOW THE ICFTU COMMITMENT TO UNION FREEDOM FROM POLITICAL CONTROL SQUARED WITH THE UGT'S STRONG TIES TO THE SOCIALIST/PSOE PARTY): THE UGT IS NOT CONTROLLED BY THE PSOE, ANY MORE THAN I AM CONTROLLED BY WILLY BRANDT, ALTHOUGH WE BELONG TO THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY. IT COULD BE THAT, FOR MANY UGT WORKERS, THE PSOE IS THE "ONLY VALID POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE."

-- (HAVE YOU HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH WITH CONTROVERSIAL (PROPOSED) MERGER OF PART OF THE USO TRADE UNION, INTO THE UGT?): "ABSOLUTELY NOTHING." BOTH THE ICFTU AND I ARE ON THE MARGIN (OF THIS AFFAIR). WE DO NOT INTER- VENE IN INTERNAL UNION AFFAIRS, WHEN THESE AFFAIRS ARE IDEOLOGICAL. WE WOULD ONLY INTERVENE IF THERE HAD BEEN SOME "CONFLICT OF DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES." WE HAD RECEIVED WORD THAT A MINORITY OF THE USO HAD HELD A CONGRESS (MADRID 7333), BUT THE THEME DID NOT INTEREST US. NOW, IF THEY WANT US TO INTERVENE, IF THEY CALL AND ASK ADVICE, WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED (TO HELP).

2. THE EMBASSY LEARNED FROM UGT SOURCES THAT KERSTEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MET OVER THE WEEKEND WITH REDONDO AND THE UGT CONFEDERAL COMMITTEE. HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF ZAGUIRRE'S ANTI-MERGER FORCES AS "A MINORITY OF THE USO" IS AN UNDER- STANDABLE PERSONAL JUDGEMENT WHICH, AS WE HAVE EARLIER REPORTED, REMAINS TO BE SUBSTANTIATED. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: VISITS, LABOR UNIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770381-1118
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771052/aaaabsmw.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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